

MACON (Ga.)  
TELEGRAPH

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# Venus Shot Is Warning; America Cannot Relax

CPYRGHT

THE THREE-QUARTER-TON space station fired toward Venus by Russia is moving at a fantastic speed. It could cover the distance between Macon and Atlanta in half-minute.

But speed isn't the important point. The achievement of launching an automatic interplanetary station from an orbiting satellite and sending it, with apparent accuracy, on a data-collecting mission millions of miles into space must make America examine once again its own space program.

Our achievements have been far superior to Russia's in many areas. But the maxim that he who controls space controls the earth must not be taken lightly. Whatever our accomplishments, it is alarming to know that the space station, carrying the hammer and sickle emblem, is on the way to Venus.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE but it is nonetheless true that totalitarian governments such as Soviet Russia can, by regimentation, achieve scientific and technological wonders that threaten the peace and security of the free world. Hitler's Germany proved the point.

Russia increased its science budget

for 1960 by 15 per cent over that of 1959. Donald E. Chamberlain, chief of the Fundamental Science Division of the Central Intelligence Agency, notes that the communist dictatorship is not reluctant to recognize its ailments and make sweeping changes to overcome them.

The United States and its allies must be no less determined to examine and re-examine our own shortcomings in scientific research and development and make the revisions necessary to make us pre-eminent on all fronts.

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IT IS, OF COURSE, much easier to criticize than to offer a constructive course of action.

The leadership of the executive and legislative branches of our government are armed with the technical data. They must set the goals and policies of our nation. They must express the national purpose.

But the people themselves must also express themselves. They must let these leaders know that the American people, if fully informed of the threat to life and liberty, are willing to bear the sacrifice.

The Venus shot shows an awesome potentiality. It is a challenge to all freedom-loving people.